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Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date indicated below.

Date: December 22, 2003

PATENT

Docket No. GC372

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of	
Timothy Fowler et al.,	) Group Art: 1636
Serial No.: 08/876,132	) Examiner: Daniel M. Sullivan
Filed: June 23, 1997	. )

For: IMPROVED ENTEROBACTERIACEAE FERMENTATION STRAINS

## AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This communication is responsive to the non-final Office Action (Paper No. 19) mailed September 23, 2003.

The response is filed within the three-month shortened statutory time period for reply and is considered timely. Please consider and enter the present amendment and remarks.